

Application No. 09/548683
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2R-10973-US02

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 29, 2004. Each issue is discussed in detail below.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawyer (5108417) in view of Burton et al. (5026377). The details of the rejection are found on pages 2-3 of the official action.

Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references.

Claims 1, 5-6 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kropf (4760849) in view of Burton et al. The details of the rejection are found on pages 3-4 of the official action.

Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of Applicant's amendments, rewriting of the claims is unnecessary for allowance.

The claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. The prompt allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner wishes to discuss further issues, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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